origin and free and easy flow of currency between the two countries; if not the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Both these issues were taken up with the Government of Nepal during Prime Minister's visit. They undertook to ensure equal treatment, as compared to their Nepalese counterparts, for Indian teachers working in Nepal. They also agreed to remove the remaining restrictions on free flow of Indian currency from Nepal to India.

Nepalese residents of Northern parts of West Bengal

953. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN:

Will he Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the Nepalese residents of northern parts of West Bengal, who had crossed over to adjoining Bhutan, have been pushed back by the Bhutanese army into Dooars region of West Bengal; if so, whether there is some unrest because of this in that area;

(b) whether the West Bengal Government was invited by the Bhutan Government for discussion; if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. A delegation led by the Bhutanese Foreign Minister did, however, have discussions with the senior officials of the Union Government and the Government of West Bengal in Calcutta recently. Various steps to tackle day-to-day problems in the border areas due to the unrest in Southern Bhutan were agreed upon. Government also reiterated its commitment not to allow the Indian territory to be used for activities directed against friendly Bhutan.

Satyagrah of Baba Amte

954. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Baba Amte had started 'Satyagrah' to stop the construction work of Sardar Sarovar on "Narmada dam";

(b) if so, what type of assurance has been given to Baba by Central Government; and

(c) whether Central Government is going to change the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No assurance has been given to Baba Amte or to anybody else by the Central Government.

(c) No, Sir.

Demands of extra departmental agents

955. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the pending demands of Extra Departmental Agents with Government; and

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto and by when the decision is likely to be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) and (b) The main demands

of the Extra Departmental Agents are as under:

1. The payment of pro-rata wages.
2. Increase in the amount of ex-gratia gratuity.
3. Payment of subsistence allowance to ED Agents during their put off duty period.
4. Coverage of ED Agents under the Group Insurance Scheme.
5. Counting of a portion of ED service as qualifying service for pension on promotion to Departmental Cadres.

The aforesaid demands have been examined by the Government but it has not been found possible to agree to the same.

Post offices working after office hours

956. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some post offices are working after office hours;

(b) if so, the names of such post offices state-wise and union-territory-wise with timings of their functioning;

(c) whether some post offices are also working on all closed holidays in the country;

(d) if so, the names of these post offices state-wise and union-territory-wise with their timings of functioning;

(e) whether some mobile post offices are also working at different places in the country;

(f) if so, the names of places being covered by these post offices state-wise and union-territory-wise with hours of functioning; and

(g) whether Government propose to bring more areas under these mobile post offices where no post office has been set up so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) Yes, Sir, some post offices selected for their importance are kept open after normal office hours. These post offices are called Night Post Offices.

(b) There are 174 such post offices in the country. The names of those offices state-wise and Union Territory-wise are also tabled with the reply to this question. The extended working hours of night post offices are determined by local condition and are not uniform in all night post offices. The extended working hours vary from 2 to 4 hours.

(c) Yes, Sir, the same Night Post Offices are also working on holidays including Sundays.

(d) The names and location are same as given in the reply to (b) above. The working hours on holidays are also determined by local condition and there is no uniformity. It is usually 2 to 8 hours in the day.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) One mobile post office is functioning in Delhi and two in West Bengal. The Mobile Post Office in Delhi is functioning from 7.25 hours to 13.35 hrs and from 14.35 hrs. to 20.55 hrs. The information regarding present working hours of the Mobile Post Offices in West Bengal will be laid on the Table of the House.

(g) At present there is no proposal for new Mobile Post Offices.

Statement

State-wise and Union Territory-wise location of night post offices

I. *ANDHRA PRADESH*

1. Hyderabad GPO
2. Hyderabad, Jubili.
3. Vishakapatnam
4. Munarupatta
5. Andhra University, Waltair.
6. Rajahmundri